

# ABAC Meeting Presentation

10-26-22

Daniel Amstutz, Town of Arlington  
Department of Planning & Community  
Development



# Items in this Presentation

1. DPCD Update.
2. Somerville Streetwise talk last week.
3. Chestnut Street Safety Project.
4. Other Updates.



# DPCD Update



# Somerville Streetwise Talk

Sponsored by Somerville Bicycle Committee & Somerville Alliance for Safe Streets

**Streetwise**  
(Formerly Bike Talk)



Monthly speaker series  
focused on sharing wisdom  
along the path  
to Complete Streets

## Connecting Arlington: the Town's Local and Regional Street Transformations

Wednesday  
Oct 19, 2022  
6:00 - 7:00PM

**Daniel Amstutz**  
**Senior Transportation Planner**  
**Town of Arlington**

**Aeronaut Somerville**  
**(Live with Hybrid Zoom)**  
Visit [bit.ly/3ORnXHn](https://bit.ly/3ORnXHn) for Zoom info

# Items Presented

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- Connect Arlington Sustainable Transportation Plan
- Mass Ave/Appleton Street Corridor Safety & Accessibility Project
- Chestnut Street Safety Project
- Lake Street/Bikeway Signal
- Minuteman Bikeway Plan
- Minuteman Bikeway Count Data
- Mystic River Path to Minuteman Bikeway Feasibility Study
- BLUEbikes in Arlington
- Mass Ave Bus Lane/BRT Pilot
- Projects on the horizon





# Chestnut Street Safety Improvement Project Update

Design Concepts for Future Planning & Mid-block Design

ABAC Meeting | October 26, 2022

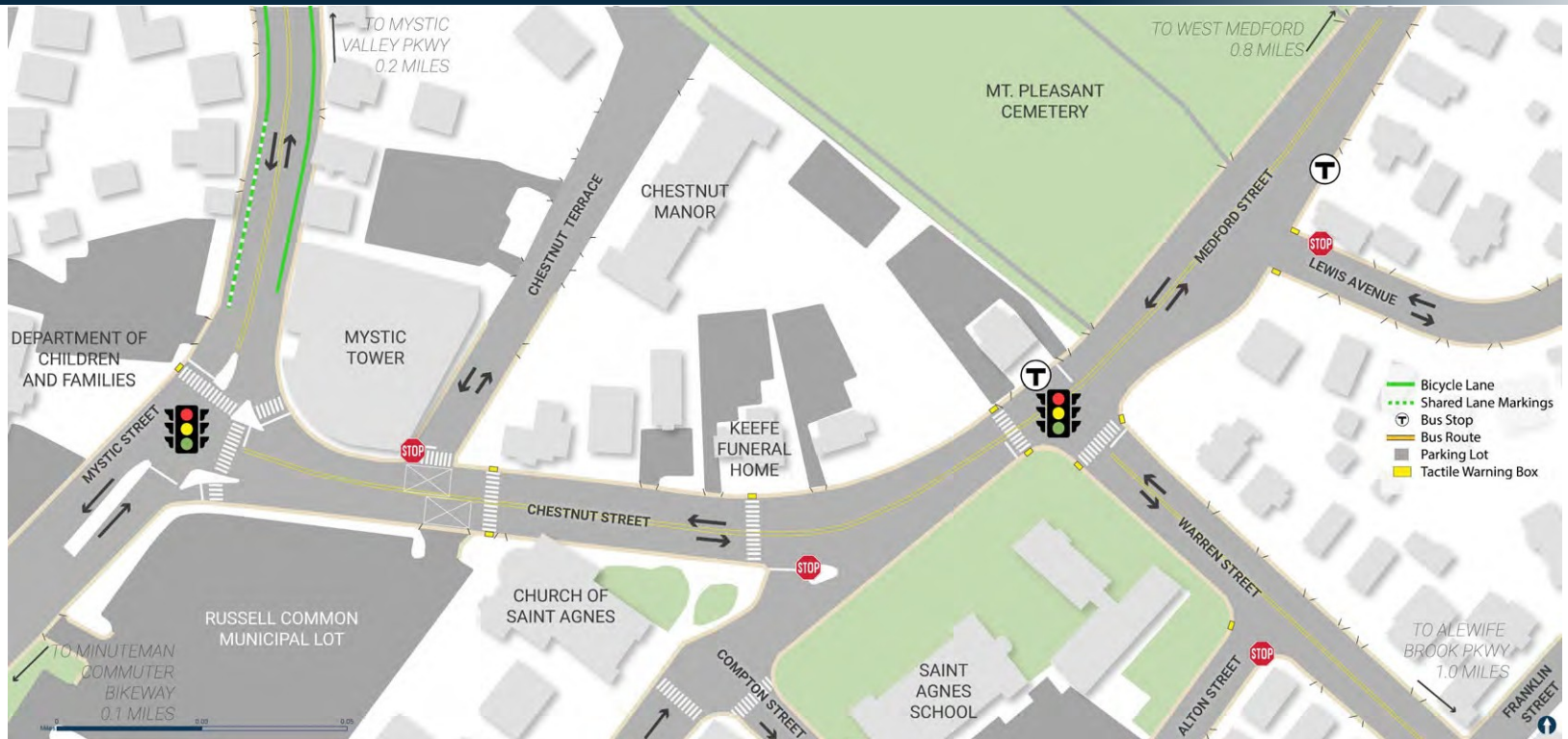
# AGENDA

- [Study Area](#)
- [Town Planning Efforts](#)
  - Initial Design
  - MassDOT Shared Streets & Spaces Grant Award
- [Challenges along Chestnut Street](#)
- [Additional Opportunities for Future Planning](#)
- [Mid-block Design](#)





# CHESTNUT ST STUDY AREA



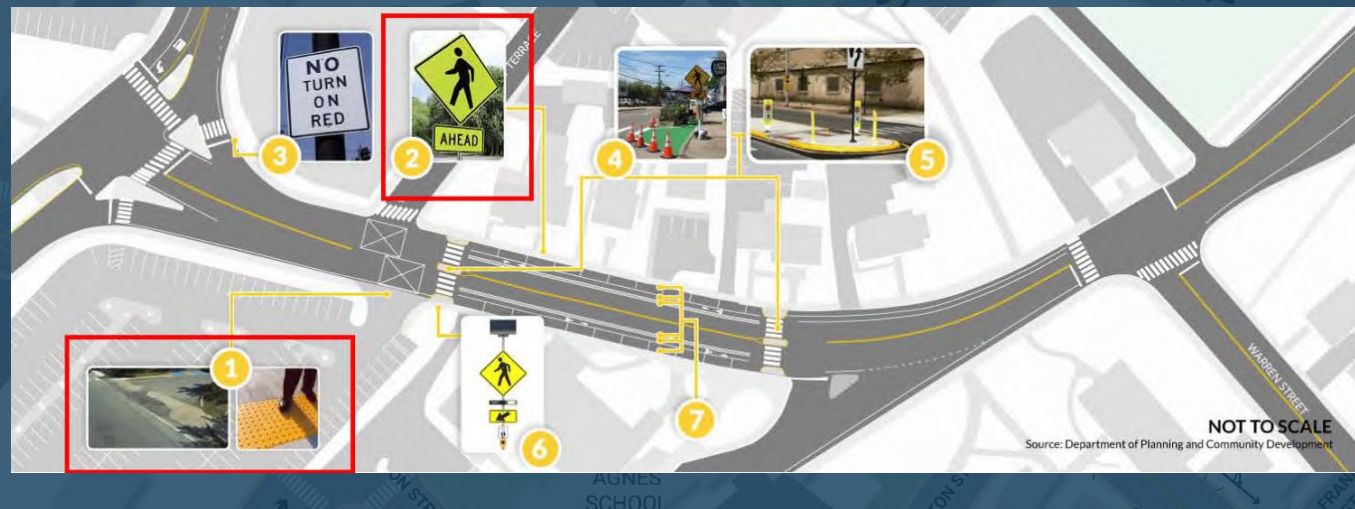
CHESTNUT STREET SAFETY IMPROVEMENT PROJECT



# INITIAL PLANNING

Town of Arlington Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) developed a plan to address the safety concerns and inadequate pedestrian facilities along Chestnut Street.

The plan was approved by the Town Select Board in June 2021.



# INITIAL PLANNING

Before the Chestnut Street Safety Improvement Process began, the Town of Arlington applied for a Shared Streets & Spaces Grant in Spring 2022 to fund the installation of a modified version of the mid-block design developed by the TAC.

The Town was awarded \$143,000 to install the safety improvements by December 2023.

*Design assumes 50' ROW, but later survey shows a ROW of 49'. Stantec is modified the design to fit the space available.*



# INITIAL PLANNING

Stantec Consulting Services was hired to develop construction documents for the mid-block streetscape improvements and take a critical look at the adjacent intersections.

## CHESTNUT STREET IMPROVEMENTS DESIGN AND PLANNING SERVICES

OPERATING PROPOSAL  
TOWN OF ARLINGTON // DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

The goal is to both improve operations while introducing design improvements, including those for which the Town has received grant funding through the MassDOT Shared Streets & Spaces Grant

Are-designed corridor should better integrate with nearby activities, including those at Arlington Center and with the Minuteman Bikeway, while preserving the access needs of today's users

- Bicycle Lane
- Shared Lane Markings
- Bus Stop
- Bus Route
- Parking Lot
- Tactile Warning Box



# CHESTNUT ST STUDY AREA

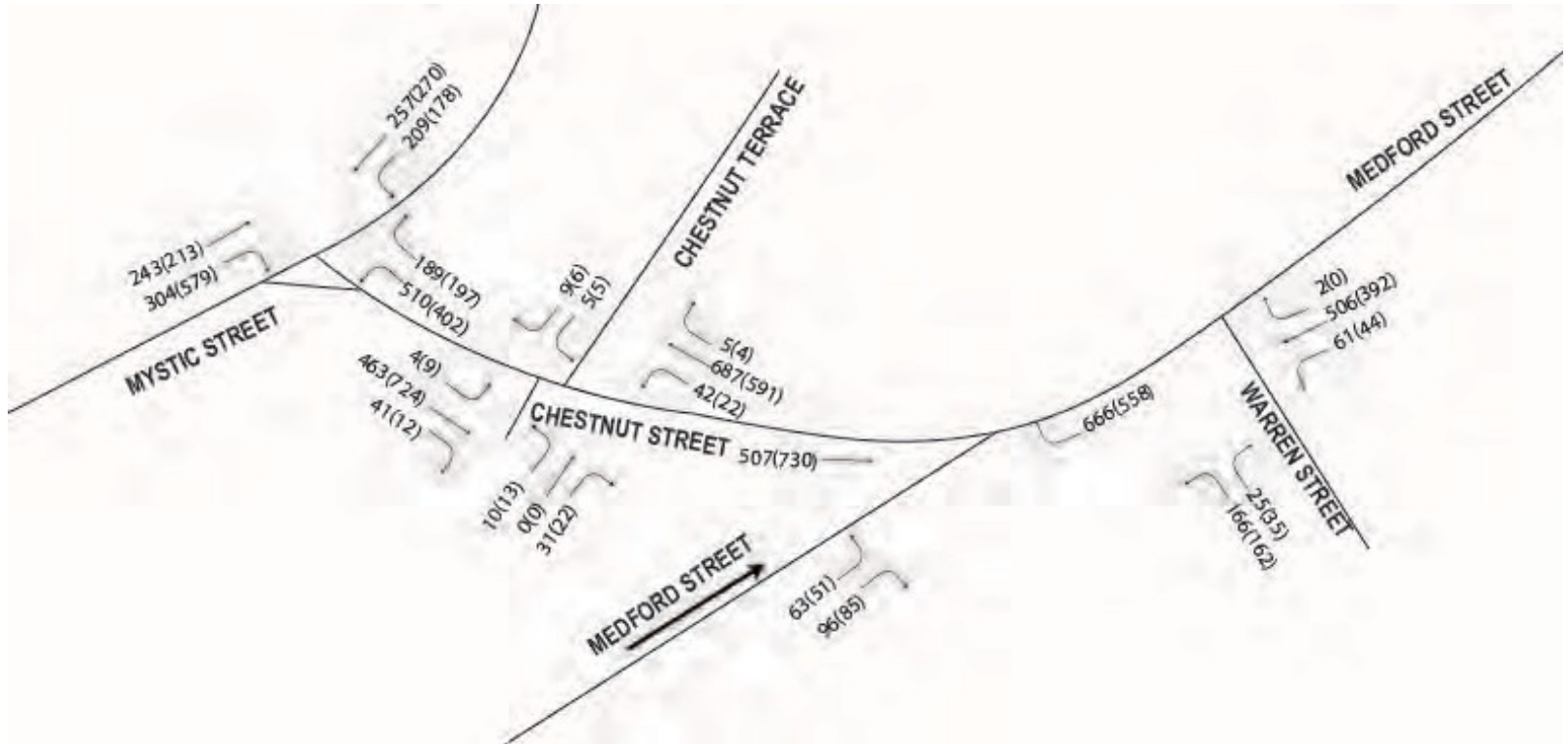
June 2021 TAC memo:

Request for further analysis of adjacent intersections within study area.



CHESTNUT STREET SAFETY IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

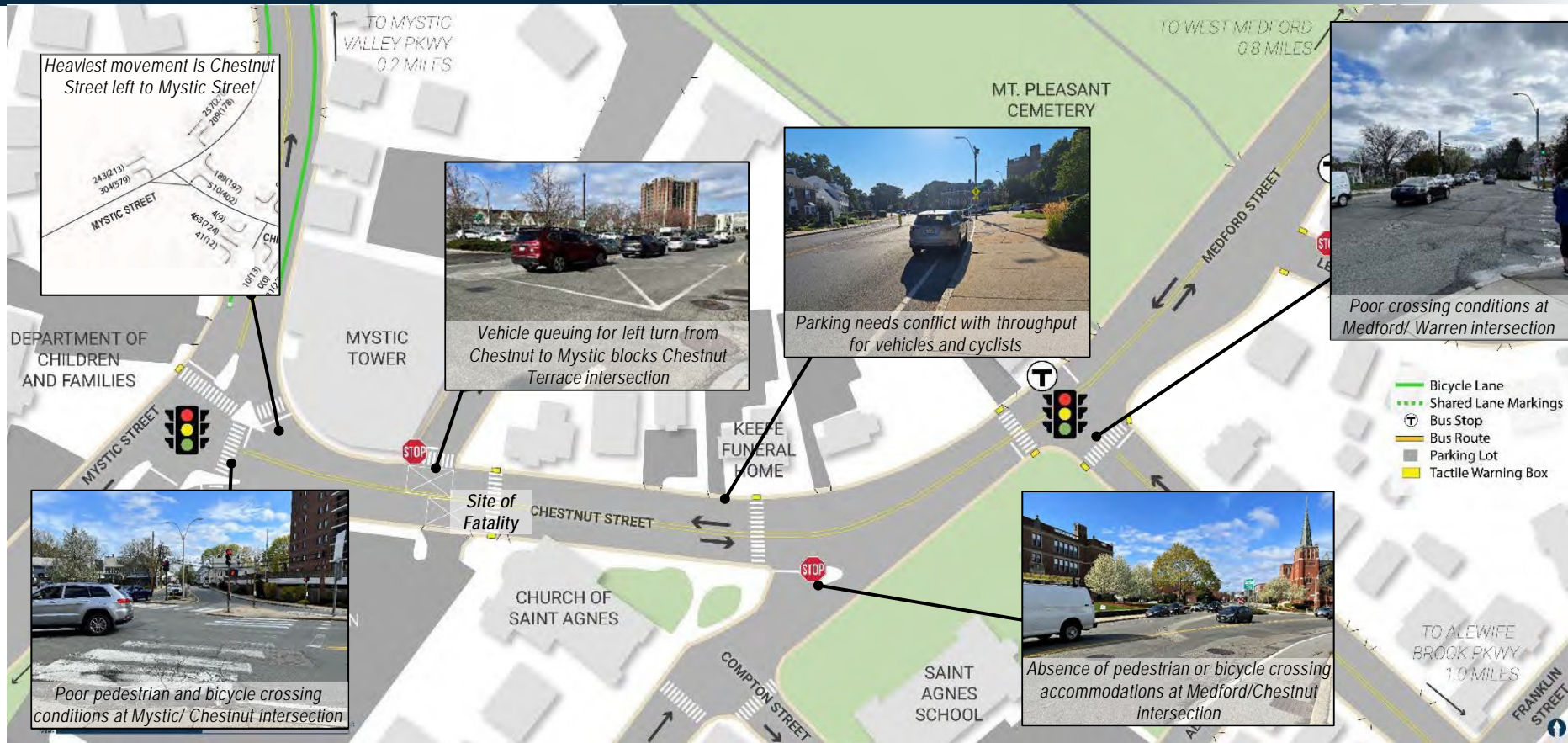
# CHESTNUT ST COUNT DATA



CHESTNUT STREET SAFETY IMPROVEMENT PROJECT



# CHALLENGES ALONG CHESTNUT STREET





# CHESTNUT ST PLANNING & DESIGN APPROACH

## Future Planning Approach:

Tighten Mystic Street/Chestnut Street intersection to reduce crossing width and delineate vehicle movements (remove slip lanes)

## Design Approach:

Accommodate parking for school, church, and funeral home

## Design Approach:

Carry bicycle connection from Minuteman Bikeway to Medford Street

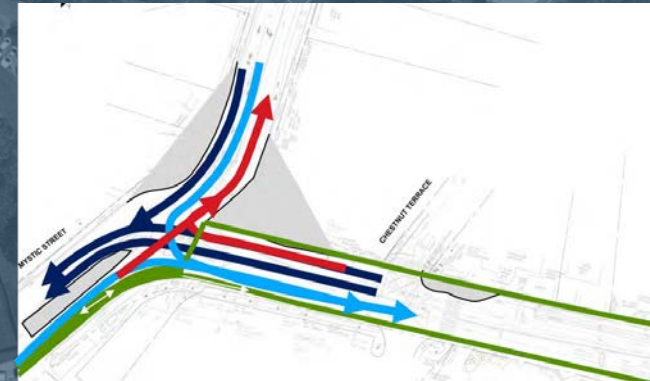
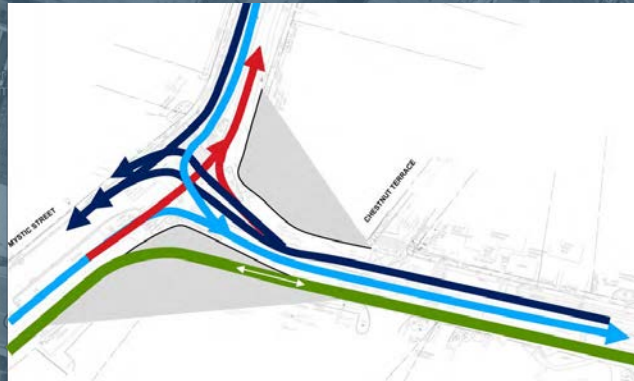
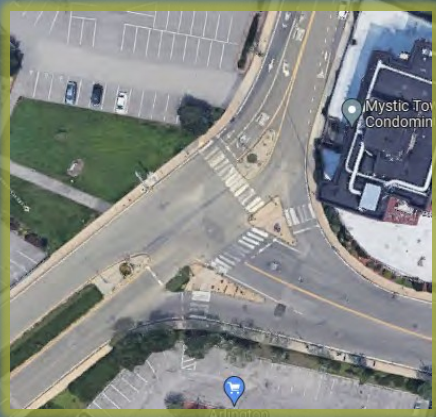


CHESTNUT STREET SAFETY IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

# PLANNING CONCEPT: TIGHTEN INTERSECTION

## Planning Approach:

Tighten Mystic Street/Chestnut Street intersection to reduce crossing width and delineate vehicle movements (remove slip lanes)



## For Additional Consideration:

Placement of bicycle lanes, modify signal timings



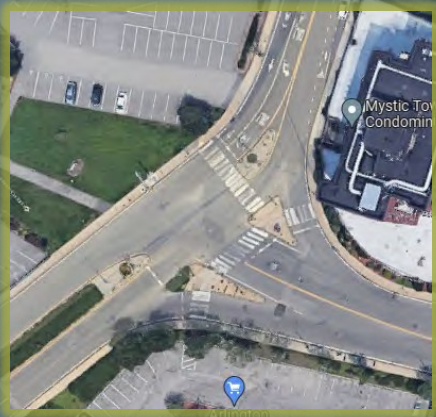
CHESTNUT STREET SAFETY IMPROVEMENT PROJECT



# PLANNING CONCEPT: REALIGN MYSTIC STREET

## Planning Approach:

Tighten Mystic Street/Chestnut Street intersection to reduce crossing width and delineate vehicle movements (remove slip lanes); connect to the Minuteman Bikeway and improve signal operations



For Additional Consideration:  
Modify signal timings



CHESTNUT STREET SAFETY IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

# MID-BLOCK DESIGN AREA

## Design Approach:

Accommodate parking for school, church, and funeral home and add dedicated bicycle facilities

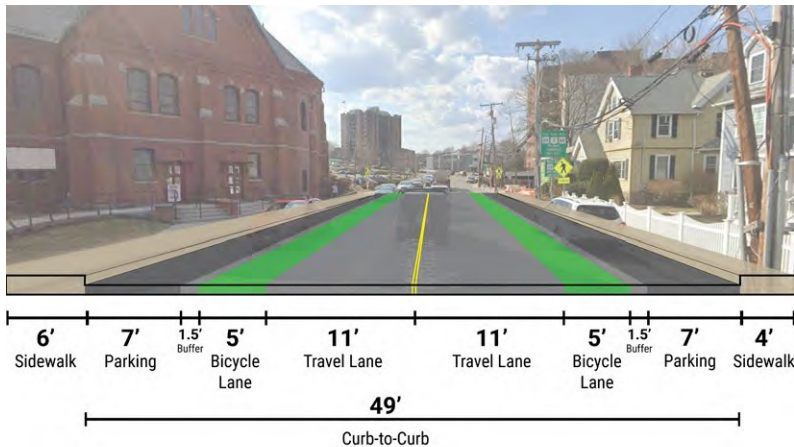


CHESTNUT STREET SAFETY IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

# MID-BLOCK PROPOSED CROSS SECTION

Cross-section from the successful MassDOT Shared Streets and Spaces Grant Application is 1-foot too wide for the existing curbline. Reducing the buffer width from 2' to 1.5' will address the space constraint.

## 1.5' Bicycle Buffer – Recommended

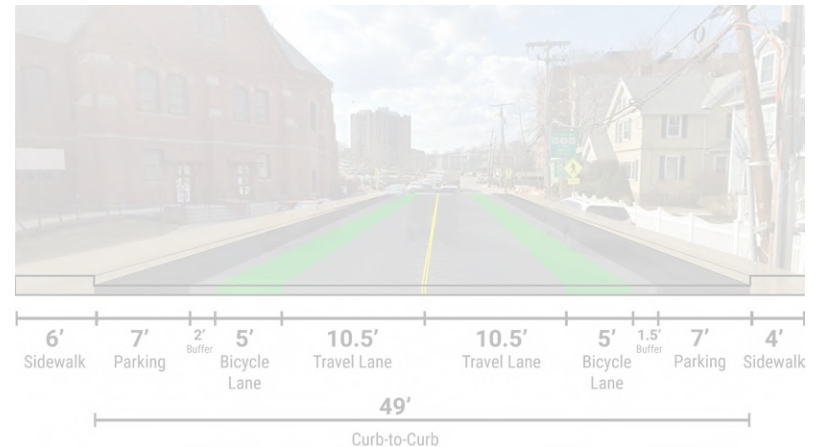


*Accommodates trucks and buses; Buffers are not NACTO compliant*



CHESTNUT STREET SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT

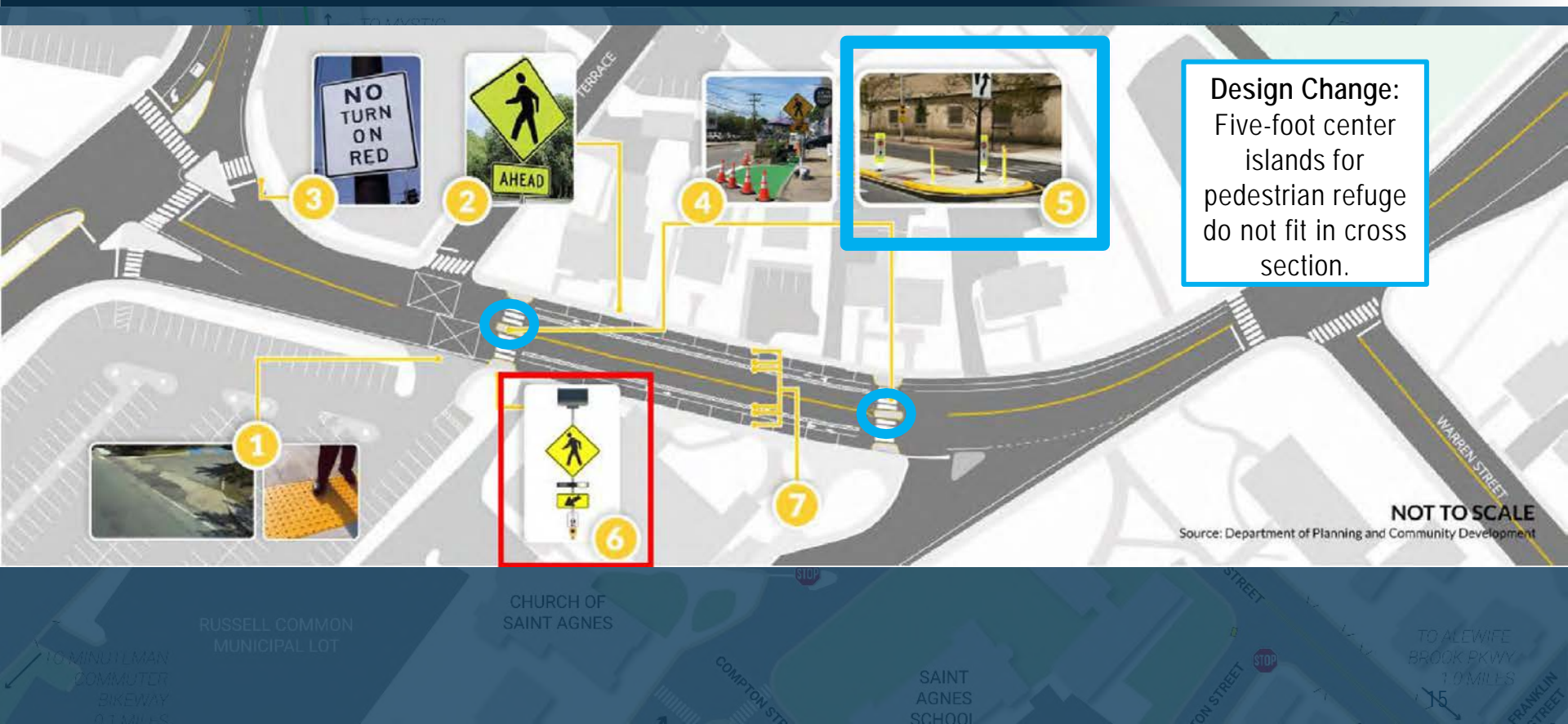
## 10.5' Travel Lane – Not Recommended



*Does not accommodate trucks and buses; Buffers are not NACTO compliant*

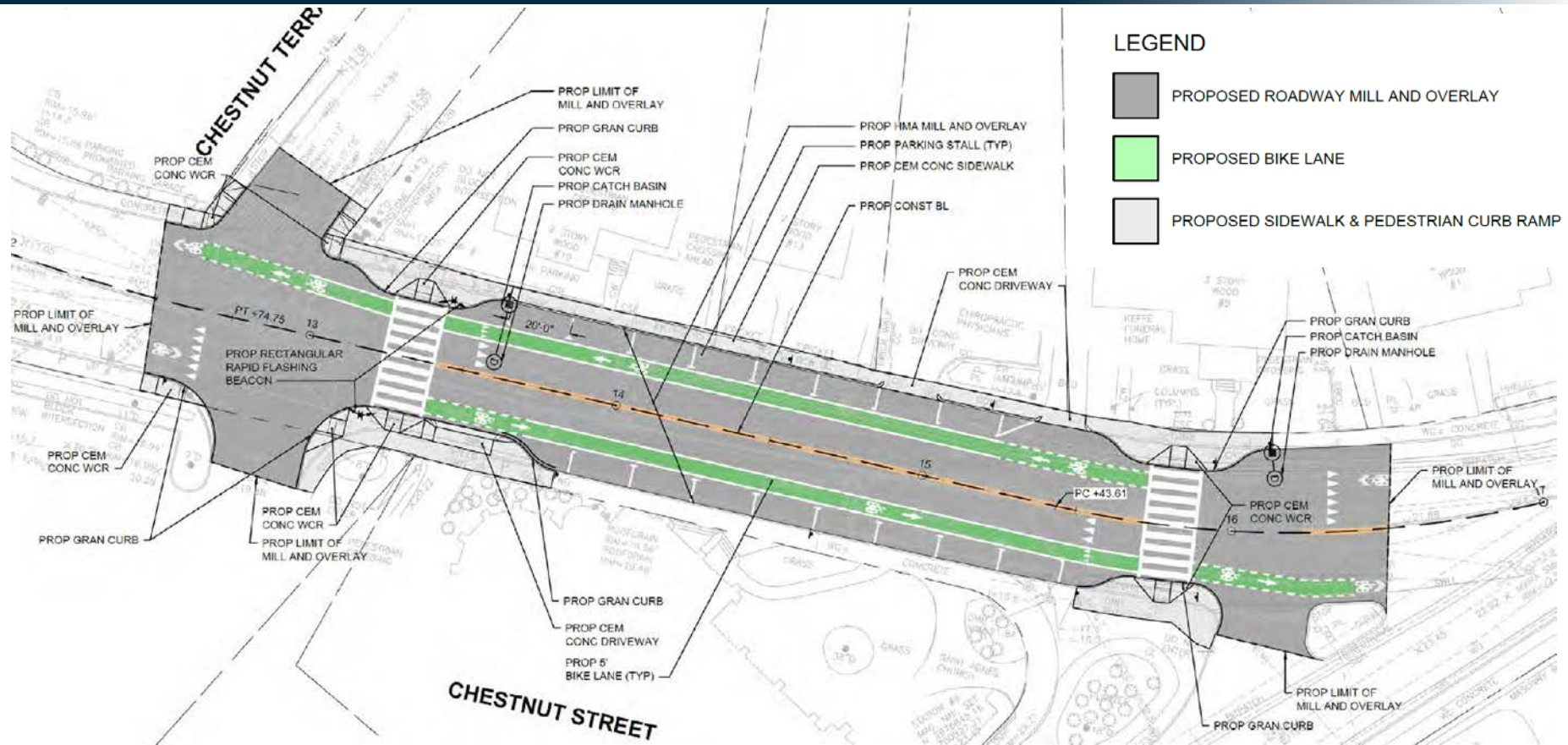


# REVISIONS FROM PREVIOUS PLAN





# MID-BLOCK PROPOSED DESIGN PLAN



# Other Updates

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## MassDOT Calls Harvard Bridge Road Diet 'Extremely Effective,' Says Changes Will Become Permanent This Fall

By Christian MilNeil | Oct 24, 2022 | 5 COMMENTS



# Other Updates

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|   |           |                      |                                        |           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
|---|-----------|----------------------|----------------------------------------|-----------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|   |           |                      |                                        |           | sidewalks.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| + | Arlington | Town of<br>Arlington | MassWorks<br>Infrastructure<br>Program | \$307,000 | This grant will be used to support safety and multimodal improvements along the public right-of-way on the Massachusetts Avenue corridor between Richardson Avenue and Quinn Road in Arlington. Funds will be used to develop the final roadway design which will accommodate new residential and business development in the immediate area. |
|   |           |                      |                                        |           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
|   |           |                      |                                        |           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |

